

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE LA SALLE CITY COUNCIL
March 6, 2023**

A regular meeting of the La Salle City Council of La Salle, Illinois was held, Monday, March 6, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Jeff Grove presiding with proper notices being duly and continuously posted.

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present - Mayor Grove, Aldermen Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon

Absent – Alderman Thompson

A quorum was present.

Others Present: Finance Director John Duncan, Deputy Clerk Brent Bader, City Attorney Jim McPhedran, Econ. Dev. Director Curt Bedei, Director of Public Works Patrick Watson, Fire Chief Jerry Janick, City Treasurer Virginia Kochanowski, Police Chief Mike Smudzinski.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to accept and place on file the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Council held February 21, 2023. Each and every alderman has a copy.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION

Request from James Lobraco of Habitat for Humanity to address the Council.

Mr. Lobraco spoke about how he joined the Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors three years ago. Within that 3-year window, he was able to assist with a build in Ottawa for a single mom with two kids, home build in Ladd for a family of four and they were able to open “Restore” on Shooting Park Road and Rt. 251. Mr. Lobraco asked to speak at the City Council meeting tonight to inform the city and Council that Habitat has secured a lot for their next project on the corner of a Buffalo Street and Seventh Street. They plan to break ground this spring and plan to build a three-bedroom home. He was also hoping to get the word out to cities to help Habitat look for an eligible and qualified family for this home. Habitat will also be in need of volunteers for this project. The habitat’s mission is to have a world where everyone has a decent place to live. They strive to provide the life

changing opportunity to own a home to families who are working hard towards homeownership, families whose income level doesn't give room for a conventional downpayment or higher interest mortgage through a conventional bank. Habitat is able to sell the home without a downpayment. There have been misconceptions about Habitat that they give away homes. Lobraco states that Habitat gives a "hand up rather than a handout". Habitat relies heavily on volunteers and donated materials and money to fund these bills. The potential family will have put in 500 sweat equity hours and have earned the right to hold a low interest rate mortgage that they can afford. Lobraco stated that the qualifications for a family are simple. There needs to be a need for adequate housing, they need to be willing to partner and provide 500 hours of sweat equity, their household income may not exceed \$62,000. This house would be for a family up to four. They will need to be a US citizen or a permanent resident. The application deadline is April 14.

A member of the public, Pat Walters, asked what home value would be and the specifications.

Mr. Lobraco stated that it's going to be a three-bedroom home, typically between 1100 to 1300 square feet. The market value can be anywhere from 80 to \$140,000. He also mentioned that one of their directors has been a home builder his whole life. He supervises the construction project from beginning to end.

DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PETITIONS:

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to approve the request from Ameren Illinois to break ground at 646 LaHarpe Street to relocate electric service to underground and install drop pole.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Jeppson to approve the request from Lisa Manijak of the LaSalle VFW for a Special Event Permit to allow the closure of a portion of Donahue Street, south of 24th Street, to host a car show from 7a.m. to 3p.m. on Monday, May 29, 2023.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Alderman Lavieri asked if there was only one home affected by this, in which they received a letter from. Deputy Clerk Bader stated that this was his understanding also.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

Moved by Alderman Bacidore and seconded by Alderman Reynolds to accept and place on file the Building Inspector's Report for February 2023 showing total fees collected of \$1,100 with total value of construction of \$129,337.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Alderman Herndon and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to accept and place on file the Monthly Police Income Report for February 2023 showing total fees collected of \$8,054.53.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee regarding a proposal from Ferguson Waterworks regarding the City's Water billing process and software.

ROLL CALL

AYE: Aldermen Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane

NAY: None **Absent:** Alderman Thompson **Abstain:** None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee regarding the purchase of a 2023 Dodge Durango for \$39,227 the Police Department minus the \$3,500 trade-in of a 2017 Ford Interceptor. This will be purchased through the drug fund.

ROLL CALL

AYE: Aldermen Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane

NAY: None **Absent:** Alderman Thompson **Abstain:** None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee regarding a two-year contract with Flock Cameras for camera system covering the City's major entrances.

ROLL CALL

AYE: Aldermen Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane

NAY: None **Absent:** Alderman Thompson **Abstain:** None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Alderman Bacidore stated that the Streets, Alleys, and Traffic Committee would like to put the request for a speed bump in the alley near 432 Creve Couer on hold till the next meeting in two weeks. The council would like to give the Chief some time to talk to the neighbors about this issue.

OLD BUSINESS

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to approve the confirmation and ratification of straw vote regarding exterior and interior testing of six additional properties following the Carus Chemical fire.

ROLL CALL

AYE: Aldermen Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane

NAY: None **Absent:** Alderman Thompson **Abstain:** None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Moved by Alderman Lavieri and seconded by Alderman Jeppson to approve the request from Mila Marshall of Sierra Club to address the Council regarding the Carus Chemical fire.

ROLL CALL

AYE: Aldermen Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane

NAY: None **Absent:** Alderman Thompson **Abstain:** None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

***Attachment A – Mila Marshall's Presentation of the Sierra Club and Public Comments regarding Carus Chemical Fire 1/11/23**

COMMENTS

Alderman Bacidore mentioned how CL Enterprises is starting another project in Aurora.

City Clerk Amy Quinn reminded all local candidates that electoral signs are not to be on city property or in city right ways.

Alderman Crane asked if there were any smaller kids t-shirts for the Parade.

Alderman Herndon wanted to recognize Deputy Bader, Chief Smudzinski, Fire Chief Janick for all their hard work the last couple weeks.

There were no more questions or comments from the public.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Moved by Alderman Ptak and seconded by Alderman Lavieri to accept, pay, and place on file bills for March 6, 2023 with Total Submitted: \$1,086,371.62 (Total Payroll \$184,979.44, Bills to be Paid \$215,357.07, Total Bills Paid \$686,035.11).

Each and every alderman has a copy.

ROLL CALL

AYE: Aldermen Bacidore, Ptak, Reynolds, Lavieri, Jeppson, Herndon, Crane

NAY: None **Absent:** Alderman Thompson **Abstain:** None

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0

Moved by Alderman Reynolds and seconded by Alderman Crane to adjourn the meeting.

Voice vote, all ayes. Motion is carried.

ADJOURNED

9:29pm

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Quinn". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Amy" and last name "Quinn" clearly distinguishable.

Amy Quinn, City Clerk

***EXHIBIT A - Sierra Club Sampling Post Carus Explosion Overview**

Mrs. Mila Marshall referred to herself as the Clean Water ambassador from the Sierra Club, Illinois chapter. Her colleague Denise Trabbic-Pointer was calling in from Michigan tonight. She spoke about their engagement post explosion and the sampling that they have done. She wanted the council to know that she is brand new to the issue. Mrs. Pointer is the one that conducted the sampling and the work with the lab. Mrs. Marshall was there to facilitate the conversation and help answer the questions.

Mrs. Marshall referred to her slideshow when she discussed who the Sierra Club is and what they do.

Marshall mentioned her two colleagues that were part of this post explosion overview. Sonya Lunder, who is their toxics policy adviser and Denise Trabbic-Pointer who is a Sierra Club volunteer from the Michigan chapter. Marshall is a clean water advocate for the Sierra Club. Sierra Club is a national nonprofit and each state has a chapter. The Illinois Chapter was formed in 1959 to protect natural resources.

Marshall mentioned how they found out about this fire through the news and various phone calls. She referred to her slide when she spoke about the visible impact where ashes turned green and also pink. They also suspected that there were some more invisible threats just because of the nature of the company, which led us to kind of be a bit curious as to what the response is going to be with the various agencies.

Mrs. Marshall was asked by Jordan Crane to share a little bit about how they engaged with the Rockton response in 2021. Her slide 5 refers to everything that they had done in response to the Rockton Fire.

- Connected with local volunteer leaders (Steven Hall) and others using a Chemtool Fire Facebook Group.
- Community was concerned and confused about the health department's guidance.
- Sierra Club toxics specialist noted the limited testing for PFAS.
- SC volunteers trained in how to collect water samples, which showed PFAS in rivers.
- Sierra Club organizer Emilee Chaclos coordinated a Q+A with a healthcare professional.
- A health guide was created.
- Community members testified at an EPA hearing on disaster prevention rules.

Marshall continued by stating that Sierra Club supports people to learn how to give really conscious mindful public comments because sometimes passion as well as priorities can kind of go in different directions.

She continued by stating that the Rockton fire occurred in June 2021. Marshall continued on with slide 6 stating everything that was done by Sierra Club in regards to the Rockton Fire.

Marshall continued the conversation by stating the importance of sufficient environmental sampling post crisis (slide 7). She stated how confirmation sampling can help identify priority

hotspots of contamination. She mentioned how coordinated sampling leads to a clearer picture and reliable information rebuilds trust in the community.

Marshall then invited her colleague, Denise, to explain the summary of samples collected. Mrs. Trabbic-Pointer explained a little of her own background as a chemical engineer, was an Environmental and Occupational Health Manager for many years, and has 42 years with DuPont. She then referred to slide 8 and discussed the summary of the samples that have been collected to date and any problems or gaps that they found in this data that was collected. One thing she did explain was that for about 12 hours, the air monitor was reading in milligrams per cubic liter and not micrograms. She felt that it was important to point out because regulatory limits are in micrograms per cubic meter. And someone who wouldn't know any better would think that actually these results are like 1000s of what they should be. She continued with slide 9 explaining two different pictures showing the Brownfield test site locations (yellow dots) and the EPA air monitor sites (blue dots). The one image did show a fire icon to symbolize Carus and the sensitive air receptor at Trinity Academy. On Slide 10, she explains what the Sierra Club learned and took away from all samples collected. She also discussed what the data means and what can be done now with the data. One point she wanted to make clear from this data collected was that river sediment should be sample up- and downstream.

Mrs. Trabbic-Pointer mentioned how one resident stated to her that their Furnace filter was black, so Sierra Club decided to take it upon themselves to test even more. On slide 11, she shows a picture map that shows the location of Carus fire, Superfund site, and approximately 8 homes that all had their furnace filter tested by Sierra Club. Slide 12 shows the results of these filter tests that were sent to Merit Lab in East Lansing, MI. On the day of the fire, Trabbic-Porter was pulling chemical inventory reports. These reports helped her base her decision on what to test on the filters. She indicated that every filter had the listed metals (Slide 12) on them and those were the maximum results. Mercury was only found on one home filter. She recommended that all ductwork in homes should be cleaned at no expense and homeowners should replace filters with MERV 13 rated filters. She did state that the results do not represent airborne levels. They are in weight to weight measurements. She also mentioned that the MERV 13 filters are just a little bit more efficient and are usually recommended for those that have asthma or COPD and those with any other type of breathing issues. She did end her portion of her presentation by stating that her email will be provided to everyone and welcomes any questions.

Mrs. Marshall then provided the City Council and the audience with a QR code that can be used to fill out a form for any questions and if they would like to stay in contact with the Sierra Club. Mr. Hicks also had a handout to pass to audience and council members with a summation of their presentation and their contact information.

Mayor Grove asked if those results were sent into the EPA or the US EPA. Mrs. Marshall asked Trabbic-Pointer if so, and she responded that they have not. They have not sent it into the ILDPH or any other agency or entity in Illinois.

Attorney McPhedran stated that he had confirmed with the Representative Yednock, as part of the city's due diligence to continue to try and follow up with local officials. Mr. Yednock indicated that he has forwarded this information to the EPA and that they are supposedly reviewing it and are working on getting an appropriate response. Mr. McPhedran stated that the city will also be forwarding this information on to the Department of Public Health, if they did not receive it already, and want to get their input.

Mayor Grove asked Mrs. Marshall if Chemtool had a town hall meeting in Rockton. She was unaware if they did because she was just tagged to help out with LaSalle and this current incident.

Mrs. Marshall stated that with Sierra Club, they work with multiple stakeholders, like Brownfield to understand what it is they did, what lab they used, as well as making contact with the company. Marshall mentioned how Sierra Club looks forward to reaching out to Carus to see what their strategy is, whether it is communicating with the public, making sure that information is accurate on Sierra Club's side and how to connect with them. They also look to bring up any other concerns that maybe are not as visible to Carus that people are not comfortable enough to mention to Carus but have stated to Sierra Club.

Attorney McPhedran believes that Representative Yednock has sent this information to Senator Rezin also. They are both working to do their best on all of these issues that are going on. McPhedran mentioned how the city is interested in getting as many resources and reasonable science input. He mentioned how LaSalle did retain an independent company. They were that this is a collaborative effort and they may not get all the testing right the first time.

Alderman Lavieri asked about for clarification with Mrs. Trabbic-Pointer when she stated about not knowing how far down in the soil Brownfield tested. Mrs. Trabbic-Pointer did not see that measurement on the Brownfield report. Alderman Lavieri thought Mr. Brown from Brownfield mentioned staying as close to the surface because that's where he expected that highest concentration to be from the recent event. Residents in the audience believed he said 6 inches down. Alderman Crane remembers the city engineer, Mr. Brian Brown, Brian, stating that the samples that were taken by Brownfield were to mimic the ones that the EPA did in the past.

Mr. Hicks stated that Alderman Crane is referring to the samples that were taken from his daughter's yard a couple years ago since her yard has not been remediated yet. He has the results from that test and said they are not good at all.

Alderman Bacidore asked Mrs. Marshall a series of questions: "Is the ground safe? Can you run your dog out in the yard? Can you drink the water?" He mentioned how the city has run all these tests and received the numbers back. The residents are scared and unsure if they should let their dogs out or kids to play.

Mrs. Trabbic-Pointer first mentioned that she appreciated the city inviting them out to learn more about what they learned. She believes that his questions are some tough ones to answer. She mentioned that she thought he had received quite a bit of rain which will help. If children or dogs do get a lot of dirt on them, clean them off right away. The metals that they are finding are things that are chronic hazards. The problem that she sees is that children play outside, get

their hands dirty, touch their mouths to their hands, and ingest whatever is on their hands. Handwashing is really important. She stated to just still remain cautious for your animals in the yards also. She recommended scraping off the topsoil of a garden and replacing it with a new clean layer. Certain metals will grow up through plants.

Mayor Grove mentioned how he heard that there has been a lot of talk of personal litigation going on. He mentioned to Trabbic-Pointer that she might be called on to assist those residents with that.

Trabbic-Pointer said that she had compiled the data into spreadsheets and she would be willing to share so copies could be sent out to the Health Department.

Deputy Clerk Bader asked if the presentation could also be shared to get the Health Department's feedback also. They were very willing to share that also.

Mayor Grove asked if Trabbic-Pointer passed along the Rockton information to the EPA after she worked on test results for them. She stated that she left that up to the local people to do so. She provided the local people of Rockton the data and the explanation of the data. She did mention that one thing that she did do when sampling in Rockton was what is called total oxidizable precursors. The sampling that they did, they ran testing for PFAS, and then they ran a second sample, and oxidized it, which sort of mimics what will happen in the environment. She mentioned that there were compounds that showed up on their tests that did not show up in Illinois EPA data, it didn't show up in ours. She offered to share those results from Rockton with the city also.

Mayor Grove asked why the Sierra Club is not elevating this type of information to a higher level of authority over places like Carus.

Trainer-Pointer did mention that she does interact with those agencies and provide them the information if it is due to a contaminated site nearby, not a superfund site however. This is really up to the community however of whether they want the information or not to share.

Mayor Grove didn't realize it was more of the communities that have to push or share this information out to the right agencies. The city's results from the Sierra Club have already been given to some right representatives, like Lance Yednock.

Mrs. Marshall explained that it does have a cooperative community effort for issues to be addressed and to move forward. Mrs. Marshall does believe if all do leverage their voices together, as decision makers and residents, change can be impacted at many levels.

Mrs. Walters asked where the heavy metals come from and if they are a byproduct of the permanganate.

Mrs. Trabbic-Pointer stated that it is in other products that they make. They handled barium

copper, lead, and manganese. This is what Carus reports on their toxic release inventory and they report what they store.

Mrs. Marshall stated that the TRI report is available publicly online, and companies have to communicate what it is that they release into the atmosphere.

Deputy Bader asked if those metals were released as a result of the fire or could they have been released through general operation through that report.

Trabbic-Pointer mentioned there's no really no way to determine whether this is from daily emissions or from the fire. Her speculation, due to the pure volume, she believes this to be from the fire. She recommended those who are replacing their filters, to peek at their filters a few months later. This is just a good idea to see what is happening on an ongoing basis. She has looked at Carus' air permit and stated that they are emitting this material.

Bader asked if these emissions were a normal part of production for facilities like this or is it an abnormal amount of emissions.

Trabbic-Pointer stated it would probably be natural for a similar facility like this that handles all these powdered materials. The last report that Carus had to share reported about 25 or 29 tons of particulate in the air.

Mrs. Bataglia did mention that she replaced her home filter that day after the fire and threw it away. She is sending her current filter in for testing that has been in her home for six weeks. She felt it would be interesting to compare now, because it was basically a clean sample after the fire. Mrs. Bataglia asked if it was the hopes of the Mayor and the Sierra Club and the EPA to finally get Carus to make some sort of response or apology. She feels that Carus does not care at all. They are on five weeks waiting on a single response from their insurance. She stated that her submission was so minor and they have yet to be paid.

Mr. Dyas stated that State Farm did pay \$8,000 worth of damage for his wife's car, but no response from the Davies Group.

Mrs. Bataglia wants to see the newspaper to report how Carus has not responded to any of the homeowners about anything. She mentioned how State Farm is trying but they also have to get testing done, and bids and contractors. For those who have been deeply impacted, she would like to see Carus apologizing, talking, and having their own adjusters for them. She does follow up every 48 hours with her insurance status claims.

Mayor Grove asked if Mrs. Trabbic-Pointer was familiar with the process of compensation and reparations for homeowners in Rockton with Chemtool. She was unfamiliar with this.

Mrs. Marshall said that this was something that she could find out for the city.

Mayor Grove asked if there was a timeline on such things. Marshall said that it definitely could be litigation.

Mr. Hicks stated that the city has an “open account” so they will not be suing Carus.

Mrs. Marshall informed the residents that if they work together and they want to get something done, they may have a different outcome, if they want to put pressure on the city council to do what they feel is right. Mrs. Marshall explained to the audience options they had as a community. Her focus with Sierra Club is to also educate others on how laws are made, what you can do at your municipal level, what you can do at the county level, and to help people identify what the strategy is to tackle the issue at hand. She mentioned to the council and the audience members what sustainability and environmental equity might look like in LaSalle. She suggested having a conversation with council members to possibly hire a full time staff member who is focused on safety and climate change and sustainability. She is here to help LaSalle understand what the options are for moving forward.

Mrs. Marshall also mentioned how they have been in conversation with Ottawa, because they are moving their product there and she wants to make sure that they understand what's happening here with Carus.

Mr. McPhedran mentioned that he has not seen any litigation from municipalities in Rockton or Morris. He stated how he did hear how EPA jumped in and sued Rockton and also Morris. The counties did join, but after conferring with counsel for the EPA in regard to the Morris litigation, from his knowledge, neither of those municipalities commenced any litigation themselves. The cities were more facilitators in their matters.

Mrs. Marshall was unaware of this but she will find out, even if the municipalities were thinking about moving forward.

Mr. McPhedran also mentioned that the other communities did not even engage in engineering to do the testing. The city is trying to do everything for the residence and that is why the city invited Mrs. Marshall.

Mr. Hicks states that the city is “paintbrushing” the information and making it look “really good for the news.” He wants to know how and why the city has more information on this than they have on the tier two chemical storage facility that is caving in on his backyard.

Mrs. Dawn Hicks is glad that the city is being more respectful to Mrs. Marshall than they were to Jamie, even though Jamie gave the same information that she just shared.

Mrs. Walters asked if the Toxic Release Inventory is an annual report that Carus puts out and who receives that.

Mrs. Marshall stated that they have the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water

Act. Every facility has to have a permit or permission to pollute. Those permits are distributed by Environmental Protection Agency. The Illinois EPA approves those permits. They have to provide that information in a time period, and then it's posted online. The public can find it, but it is a bit challenging to find it on your own. Marshall stated that they can provide links for identifying or how to identify violations. One can find Pollution Discharge Elimination System permits, but there's an entirely different website for tracking violations. It's called ECHO - environmental compliance history. One can identify what factory or what business is in violation of their permit, and that's completely separate.

Mrs. Walters next question was if the EPA is well aware of the Toxic Release Inventory, how could they come in front of the city and the residents and say that it is just potassium permanganate and there was nothing to see here. They know what chemicals they release in the air and she feels that they fail to disclose that information.

Mrs. Marshall rephrased the question for her colleague, Denise. She asked if Illinois EPA Region Five is aware of the emissions of Carus through the Toxic Release Inventory, why is it that those entities did not test for those metal products?

Mrs. Trabbic-Pointer stated that it was Brownfield that did not test for all those metals. She was unsure as to the ILEPA's focus. She felt that their focus was on what contaminants were at Carus and some of what was off site from Carus and they did all the metals as well. She stated that Brownfield did not. She mentioned that the Toxic Release Inventory it is very easy information to get. She stated that a good amount of what they report on their toxic release inventory is what they send to waste, not just to air. It is water and where waste is shipped. So even just a release to air to release to water and waste where the waste is shipped.

Mr. Dyas asked if this information is given once a year.

Mrs. Trabbic-Pointer stated that it is something that is due July 1, and usually released a few months afterwards in the public domain.

Mrs. Walters asked if the city of LaSalle receives this Toxic Release Report. Marty Schneider brought it to the Mayor's attention and the city found out that it goes right to the state level.

Mrs. Trabbic-Pointer also mentioned that the chemical inventory of what they store goes to the medical emergency planning committee, Fire Department, and the State.

Mayor Grove asked if the IEPA or EPA identified the metal products in their samples in any concentrations. Trabbic-Pointer said that the state they did one soil sample and six wipe samples and they did run all the metals on those.

Mayor Grove asked how those levels were. Trabbic-Pointer stated that there were ones that were high that alarmed her were the ones that were collected right after, on Carus property. She stated that on Jamies sidewalk, there was manganese and antimony, which were a little bit high. She also said that the wipe samples are a four inch square and they do represent what is

on the surface, but doesn't tell a whole lot about what your exposure is going to be.

Mrs. Marshall asked Trabbic-Pointer if she was part of the sampling team, what would have been her recommendation, if not the wipe samples.

She stated that there were white samples that were practically done in the middle of one of those colorful puddles and she felt that that should have been a meaningful test. She also mentioned that testing Jamie's sidewalk and other surfaces, or people could have been useful. Her recommendation would have been to do a lot more soil sampling. She would have done the same locations as brownfield, but much shallower and would have recommended that they run all the metals.

Mrs. Bataglia questioned how they are running this report every year for the state but no one is double checking to make sure that they are doing what they are saying or doing.

Mrs. Marshall mentioned how that is when the IEPA comes in for their permit. They will go in and see if they are emitting more, than they would be in violation of their permit and they do their job.

Bataglia questioned how often this was done.
Mrs. Marshall said it was a good question.

Bataglia believes that they have been doing this for a very long time and now they have a catastrophic event and no one's oversighting them that they're just getting by with and the residents are breathing it in every day.

Mrs. Marshall stated that every industry emits because they are allowed to. A facility can say what their bi-product is and they are going to put it down the drain and their plan of how to discharge it. The IEPA will come in and state how much a facility can discharge and how to go about doing it and still be under compliance under the Clean Water Act or Drinking Water Act. The facility has to comply with that. She stated how the public however, can look at that permit and say no, they don't like this, they would rather see the discharge flow rate to change. However, the permits are highly technical for the public to push to have changed. The Sierra Club does track all of the water permits in the State of Illinois and work with communities and local organizations to identify which permits they absolutely do not want to be passed. This does take people who are interested, those who have the time, and to also work collaboratively with Sierra Club to learn how to push back on permits. The Sierra Club can ask for a public hearing to talk to IEPA or DNR to say why it is that the public does not want this permit to move forward or they can sue, which Sierra Club often does.

Mrs. Trabbic-Pointer did mention that Carus' air permit is up for renewal, possibly in December of this year, which means that they're going to have to be submitting an application very soon. She did suggest for local people to be on the lookout for that soon.

Battaglia's concern is that if they can not take sufficient sampling during a catastrophic event how are they supposed to trust them.

Mrs. Marshall did mention that it does take all of us to help hold everyone accountable. And that's what we also do with the Sierra Club. They have meetings with IEPA and DNR addressing permits and legislation.

Mrs. Walters asked if long term air monitors in the City of LaSalle would be valuable.

Trabbic-Pointer believes that it would be beneficial with Carus and plants like Carus that have a lot of particular emissions. She did look at the closest stationary monitors. There was one in Peru but there was one a little ways away. She felt that it would not be a bad idea to look at getting a stationary nearby.

Mrs. Walters asked how monitors the stationary air monitors.

Mrs. Trabbic-Pointer mentioned that it is a state thing. She will look into it. The city can purchase some less expensive ones. There is definitely paperwork how to get one going for the area. The mention of the industries in the area and the prevailing winds would justify why a stationary monitor would be beneficial.

Mayor Grove said that they could definitely reach out to them in regards to a stationary air monitor.

Mrs. Marshall asked if there was a university close by. The Sierra Club could help the community to find opportunities for grants and to work with graduate students.

Mrs. Dawn Hicks mentioned that the city does have one at the library that she believes is through the University of Illinois Champaign. Hicks felt that the library location is a substantial amount away from Carus to get fairly accurate readings from.

Marshall did mention that Sierra Club would be able to help with finding those people who would be interested in collecting this type of information and providing solutions.

Alderman Jeppson stated that he does have a meeting with the Director of the Library on Wednesday. He will ask who is monitoring and get more information on this current air monitor.

Alderman Ptak asked about the filters that were tested and if they contained all the metals. Trabbic-Pointer stated that all had the metals with one having Mercury also. Ptak asked why only one of those would have mercury.

Trabbic-Pointer did look at all locations and she can not find an explanation as to why. This one did have low levels of mercury.

One resident asked about how to get Carus involved to fix this problem. She stated that Carus assumes themselves as community advocates, but their silence is very loud.

Jamie Hicks mentioned that he heard that Carus hired a PR firm and they will not be coming to discuss anything.

Mrs. Marshall stated that an industry's presence or their assets speak volumes to the public's point, but that doesn't mean that work still cannot be done. Marshall continued by stating that some of Sierra's club strategy is to continue to move forward with what the community wants and/or needs and helping to support to get the city to the next phase. The residents, as well as the decision makers, can understand what are the opportunities and what the options are.

Alderman Crane asked if the City of LaSalle is doing what they should be or can be doing to make things better for the residents.

Mrs. Marshall stated that her first recommendation would be to listen to the residents genuinely and take them seriously the first time. The city should be identifying organizations and/or trusted sources of information and bringing them in just like they did with Sierra Club. She also recommended that there may be an opportunity to create a health focused town hall where there is an outside pediatrician, veterinarian, or someone who has worked on metals like this.

Trabbic-Pointer has a letter drafted and ready to send out to about six or seven different EPA divisions with a litany of issues that she has with Carus. Besides the fire, she feels that Carus does not have a good emergency response plan in place and the fact that they are sending their waste to their own landfill in Ottawa. She thinks that the city is doing a good job by at least having these meetings and listening to their people.

Mayor Grove asked if she was referencing Carus's emergency plan.

Trabbic-Pointer stated that she was and she believes their plan to be a very generic plan, which is a very familiar problem. Carus should have critiqued how they did with the emergency. Carus' human resource person thought they did a great job, but she believes that there were things that Carus could improve on. Carus should also be open and inviting to the community and tell the city and the residents what they found. They should also be investigating the cause to keep it from ever happening again.

Mrs. Walters stated that they are not going to find a cause because they've already claimed force majeure.

Mrs. Bataglia asked if the Mayor was receiving any response from the city's calls to Carus.

Mayor Grove stated that they have been in contact with them and they have encouraged them to come out and talk to the council and the residents.

Resident Gary Hammers asked why the Mayor does not demand them to come. Jamie Hicks said just like they are demanding the city to shut down the Tier Two facility.

Mayor stated that the city does not have the authority to demand anyone attend a meeting and have been told by the government that the City may be reimbursed for damaged equipment during the fire but also may not be reimbursed.

Bataglia stated how the city is taking all the heat from this situation and the city should be the ones demanding answers from Carus to help out the residents. Bataglia would like to know what legal resources does the city have to go after Carus and demand answers. She is concerned because "Inga has gone to dinner with the Governor of Illinois, and probably in bed with half of the other people." Bataglia wants to know what the city has to go up against to get us results for the residents.

City Attorney McPhedran stated that this is a very complicated question. McPhedran understands that these entities, IEPA, IEMA, state attorney, and other state agencies are involved in a different way in Morris and Rockton because they are going for cleanup costs. McPhedran believes the city is doing their due diligence in comparison to other communities.

Hicks said that LaSalle is a different community and Carus is a different facility and can not be compared to Rockton.

McPhedran stated how every situation and community is different but one can consider input from others. McPhedran said that he heard that the company in Rockton had hired an independent contractor to get involved in cleanup. He believes that it would be fair to ask Carus to do the same or at least to address the concerns to the constituents. The city has conducted public meetings every two weeks and listened to comments and respected their input.

Residents said they felt that not everyone has been respectful.

Jamie Hicks said he would like to talk to Mr. McPhedran after the meeting tonight. McPhedran said he would be willing to talk to him.

McPhedran stated that they look into their resources for such a case but this would require substantial expert cost and substantial resources. The city could also look to the EPA to help out, if they believe there's an issue. The Sierra Club has brought forward some information to the city that needs further investigation and that's why council invited them to be here tonight.

Mrs. Marshall did suggest looking up the Environmental Law and Policy Center, ELPC, who provides legal services across the Midwest. She said that this may have tools at the city council level that changes the way in which entities are allowed to operate or what it is that is required for them to be in compliance with the city ordinances. She is not sure what opportunities there are at that level but she felt that it might be useful to have a conversation in regards to this. Mrs. Marshall did ask about how many other factories or industrial facilities are in the city of

LaSalle. Mrs. Marshall did suggest many questions to consider and reflect on moving forward from this event. She also suggested having weekly updates to make sure that people understand the findings and the conversations that are being had with these certain entities with full transparency. She suggested that now may be a good place to pause and reflect on a lot of these questions and concerns because many of these factories are old and unfortunately they are due for something to go wrong or go bad.

Alderman Ptak asked if, from Mila's and Denise's experience, this was normal for companies to be handling these situations like they are, by ignoring what is going on and until they are pushed against the wall.

Mrs. Marshall agreed that this is exactly how they all handle it and that is why there is environmental injustice and environmental racism. She continued by stating that this is what the big companies do because they have the money to protect themselves. Litigation is expensive and it is very really hard for a city or a resident or a small nonprofit, to afford a long drawn out case. Marshall stated that Illinoisans deal with this every single day. These companies provide tax resources but are also cutting lives. She continued by stating that they are causing harm to businesses and decreasing the property value. These companies will try and get away with everything they possibly can. Marshall said that everyone needs to continue working together to stop them and hold them accountable.

One resident mentioned that historically Carus has been disappointing to this entire community and the surrounding area.

Mrs. Marshall thanked the council for having her there tonight.

Mayor Grove asked if there was any other discussion on this topic.

Mr. Jamie Hicks asked to speak. Hicks mentioned that he has video of purple magnesium or permanganate all over the ground up behind the plant. Mrs. Dawn Hicks shared photos with the council of this. Hicks stated that the video is on his facebook. He believes that they are clearly hiding something. They have pump bottles by their side and with some guys wearing Tyvek suits and some are wearing masks. He also has pictures of two guys with spray bottles, spraying it before it goes into the city sewer. Hicks was told that the product takes the purple and that it does not need to neutralize. He gives the person credit for taking this video because they were cut off by a truck and they did want her to see them.

Mrs. Dawn Hicks mentioned it was her who took the photos. She stated how the photos were taken off her cell phone and the brightness of the color and the extent of the color was actually more in real life than what the pictures are showing. She felt it was necessary to share theses photos because no one has asked for this proof since they have mentioned many incidents. She wanted to prove that they were not lying or "blowing smoke." Hicks stated that they have felt like the city has turned their back on them because the city's partnership with Carus is important. She mentioned how people are going into the hospital with health issues that they've

never had before or not to the extent they have had. She also mentioned how they animals that the vets don't know what to look for. She thought maybe sharing pictures would be a little more helpful to share with the city council.

Jamie Hicks mentioned taking a video of the city street sweeper being up by Carus and helping them clean the mess up. Hicks stated that after they were plumed by the fire, their roads were black, they asked the city to come up, but no one came to do their streets. He is wondering why it's convenient for Carus to use the city's equipment when now those pieces have their toxic stuff in it.

Deputy Clerk Bader mentioned that when the city found out about what was going on, he reached out to the EPA, both federal and state and also reached out to both county and state health departments to report to them.

Hicks asked if Carus reported or the city. Bader mentioned that he did. Hicks stated that this is the problem because Carus is supposed to report a spill. Bader stated that Carus did call the city and Bader then called the other agencies.

Hicks wants to know how Carus does respond and take care of a spill. He asked if they use that special spray on it. He also stated that whatever the spray smelled horrible. It was so very strong and very pungent.

Mayor Grove mentioned how today's response was unbelievable and he would have assumed that would have had many safeguards after everything that has happened. He mentioned how the city did call the Bureau of Land. The city is trying to retrieve that video of the product squirting from the hose. It only happened for a brief moment but it was about 20 gallons. They were told by the Bureau of Land to go ahead with the cleaner and get it off the city right away.

Mr. Hicks asked the city why their streets were never cleaned with the street sweeper when they asked the city to do so.

Hick's other issue is with the Carus Chemical newspaper article. The article stated they put cameras up now to make it safe, which they shouldn't have had before. Hicks also mentioned how the fire alarm went off more than just one night and how it only went to the Carus control panel. He stated that it did not go to the fire chief's station. Hicks has FOIAs to prove that the alarms went to the Carus control panel. He is very concerned about this. He also mentioned that what he is reading, it is saying that everything is up to code. He states that they are not. They are going to continue to go by the tier two inventory report, and still use the warehouse for storage of eight chemicals.

Mrs. Walters asked the council if they could make a motion to do something with that building similar to desanctifying a church. The city make some sort of a motion to I don't know if it was the church who do sanctify

Mayor Grove mentioned that they were told that they would be emptying it out.

Mr. Hicks asked on record if the fire chief, who has every right, to go in right now with a video camera.

Mayor Grove wanted Mr. Hicks and others to know that the police officers do not have Body cameras. Hicks was surprised because he thought everyone was supposed to have them by January 1.

Hicks mentioned for Zebron to show up and he could look Hicks in the eyes and tell him what he saw in that building. Hicks mentioned how he saw plastic stuff hidden under and how it's mysterious. Hicks asked for the mayor to make sure that he never sees that facility up and running or a semi again. He also asked to make sure Fire Chief Janick gets in there. He stated that Janick knew of the Apollo on the 25th of January. Hicks has an email, on the 25th, to Bader mentioning that he knew it was the Apollo.

Hicks asked for Fire Chief Janicks resignation. Mayor Grove said that will not happen. Hicks stated that "You hired him. You fire him." Hicks mentioned how he has many lies and many city members knew of the tier 2 facility. Hicks stated how Carus abused the law, the city allowed them to do it, and the city put the signs up. Hicks has it all in his emails from 2017.

Mayor Grove stated how Hicks' concerns then were of the truck traffic.

Hicks was unsure if Brian Brown had shared any test results from his daughter's yard. The section of yard that he is reporting on has her garden, fire pit, and where her dog runs. Her lead counts went from the EPA 2020 report from 270 to 2000. The cadmium went from 32 to 50. The zinc was 3.9 and went up to 5.17. Magnesium 720 to 1640. Potassium is at 3120, but EPA didn't have a number a first time when they reported.

Mayor Grove states that they do have these results and numbers and now the EPA has those numbers.

Hicks is trying to figure out why on March 6, they are still taking soil samples and still trying to figure out what's going on in people's houses.

Mayor stated that the city is trying to do something to help by taking her first results and then they just took the time to get the second results to have a comparison of before the fire.

Hicks stated that Brownfield didn't take the right steps in the first place. He also mentioned how Carus is twisting the media and they did hire a PR firm. Hicks stated that many people are talking and he doesn't even know what to do with all the information that he has. Hicks is upset because with the filter tests and the soil sample tests so far, he is trying to figure out if they have been dumping stuff on the city the whole time or it came from the fire.

Hicks wants to speak with Attorney McPhedran about zoning and how that place got zoned and

how we can work on getting it rezoned. Hicks wants to know when the police and the fire department with Jordan Crane go through the warehouse and videotape it. He does not believe it to be empty.

Hicks was upset with Janick and Bader that they knew it was the Apollo building and they didn't mention it was the Apollo building. He stated that Bader's words were in an email.

Deputy Clerk Bader stated that he did inform Jamie of the Apollo building. Bader learned about it by searching a link which he shared with Hicks. Hick states that Janick sent Bader the actual words, what it was called and what it is. Hicks stated that Janick could have saved himself the embarrassment if he would have read the Tier 2 report.

Alderman Crane asked if the city can legally camera in the building or does the city need a search warrant.

Attorney McPhedran mentioned that he will look into it. The last time they were asked to go in, they voluntarily allowed the county to go in.

Hicks stated that the county guy was the wrong guy to go in there and the Fire Chief has more log.

McPhedran stated that through The Illinois Chemical Safety Act pretty much empowers for the most part and it appears that the enforcement mechanisms there are through the EPA and the IDMA, as far as what the city's resources will be.

Hicks stated that he has it in writing from LaSalle County and the city is in charge of inspections. Hicks mentioned that he contacted the Mayor when he saw work being done and asked if it was permanent. That was when they were putting the fire alarm and smoke detection system in.

Bataglia mentioned that the city has done an incredible job of getting rid of dilapidated buildings across the city, but there is still that building housing horrific chemicals. Along with the semis which almost tip over on a weekly basis. Bataglia suggested to Chief Smudzinski to use some of the drug money to buy some body cams. She understands that the city is overwhelmed at this point by all of the information that has happened over the last several weeks, but why is the city not able to go in to inspect this building as part of some structural engineering issues.

Mayor Grove said that the city can go in to do a structural engineering check.

Bataglia is very upset with the building and the trucks that have almost tipped over multiple times, without placards, and they could have killed her kids.

Mrs. Walters mentioned LaSalle's Comprehensive Plan from 2014. When she took a look at it, she noticed places that are highlighted in yellow. She assumed that meant those were things that the city wanted to work on. One thing she noticed was in regards to industrial sites that are

located in residential areas. Within her quick reading, the city has ordinances that control industrial sites that are near residential areas. If that warehouse was being used as an industrial site to store chemicals, it should have fallen under one of those ordinances. Mrs. Walters was unaware of which ordinance. Mayor Grove mentioned that they could review to make sure that they haven't missed something.

McPhedran mentioned how the city is already investigating certain aspects.

Hicks states that he has a list of ordinances that they have broken. He shared these with Bader and the EPA. On Hicks' Facebook, he sent an email to city officials and the EPA that was involved in it, to tell them how he felt about everything. He believes there are many things that are getting covered up and many lies.

Hicks stated that he will not be back so the Mayor will not have to worry about him.

Mayor Grove stated how he will not allow Hicks to publicly say that Bader is not doing his job or he's trying to hold things. Bader has put his heart and soul into the city. He has another job to do other than this issue.

Hicks stated that it's all in the paperwork.

Mayor Grove stated that he is not going to let others rip apart other professional people.

Hicks said that the Mayor is not professional and he needs to step down.

Mayor believes that these meetings are not accomplishing. The city is going to keep doing what they need to do. The residents need to keep doing what they need to do also.

Hicks stated he will be getting a lawyer and suing the Mayor too.

Mayor Grove mentioned that all comments can be FOIA'd by any kind of litigation for or against. He wanted to remind all to know what they are talking about.

Marty Schneider spoke in regards to a problem he had from the last meeting when Alderman Crane stood up and asked for more testing. The residents wanted at least 12 interior tests in the home and of the soil. He asked the Mayor why he wanted the number reduced. He also asked what Alderman were for and against the number of tests. He also wanted to know why it got reduced to two in home tests and six soil tests.

Mayor Grove actually was for no testing because he wanted to see what Breanne's results came back first. Mayor acknowledged an obvious change from a yard prior to the explosion to not. He feels that maybe they need to look at doing more. Mayor did have one resident reach out to him because he heard Jamie did not want to share the filter results. He is glad that the results were passed on to Lance Yednock because he directs the Illinois EPA. They can have the authority to tell a group that they need to do this to make something right.

Schneider asked if Carus is paying for the testing that the city is doing.

Mayor Grove stated that they were just doing what is best for the city. The city is not asking Carus at this time but they plan on sending to them.

Schneider is unsure why the city will do a few and then we're going to wait three or four weeks to find out what those results are.

Mayor stated that the city can do unlimited things, but he didn't think it made sense until they found out what they did from Breanne's yard. Mayor Grove also said that he will continue to follow up with Lance Yednock because he now has the same information as the city and he is going to direct it to the right people. Mayor Grove would love to see someone from Carus come forward and say that they have seen this but they will not. The City does have Breanne's results and they did all agree to do the further testing. The city wants to keep doing what they can to continue on.

Schnieder stated that he did question why the vacant warehouse was able to be used as a storage facility for their product and has never been taxed as a storage facility. This storage facility is three blocks away from the Carus plant.

Mayor did mention contacting the assessor's office and they said it doesn't matter what's in it or not, but it goes by the footprint of the building. Mayor Grove could not confirm whether or not it had a different address. He confirmed with the assessor's office that they go by the footprint and not what is housed in the building.

Mrs. Walters stated that she understood it as a vacant building is something like that has boarded up windows and probably is unfinished on the inside. A tier two facility would have extra electricity or may have more camera systems. It may have a fire system and all things that go into assessment of a building. She states that it is not just the footprint.

Alderman Crane stated that he personally, or even the men that he does trust up here, knew what that building was. He stated that Bader looked back at some of the zoning for it. It was zoned for this use as early as 1952.

Schnedier asked if it was ok to be a parts storage building with boarded up windows and holes in the roof.

Alderman Crane stated that it would not be ok and one would definitely receive a fine.

Attorney McPhedran mentioned that Brent was asked to check the zoning. The first zoning map indicated that it was zoned manufacturing. As far back as the city can see, it has been zoned for some type of manufacturing.

Deputy Bader confirmed that there was no other zoning for that property. He believes that is why Ottawa had to have any sort of discussion before, was because they had to have that property rezoned to store any sort of those chemicals.

McPhedran stated that when a property has to get rezoned or have to get a special use permit, then one does have more hoops to hop through. It is already zoned appropriately, so the community has much fewer options. Mrs. Marshall agreed with McPhedran also.

Alderman Lavieri asked if this would have been grandfathered into the first zoning ordinance in '69.

McPhedran stated that from the first zoning ordinance that the city enacted was already zoned manufacturing, which makes it a whole different ball game than what Ottawa had. In part of the city's due diligence, McPhedran also discussed with Ottawa's city attorney and they have indicated they're willing to work with the city also in the best interest of residents of both cities. The city is trying to explore everything that they do have and they do not have all the answers. Mayor Grove mentioned that within the two weeks that the city committed to, they will make sure the building is empty.

Dawn Hicks reminded the Mayor that the two weeks are over tomorrow.

McPhedran mentioned how the Mayor also indicated that we are going to investigate the building aspect too.

Mr. Dyas asked if it was zoned manufacturing, does that mean they have to produce something there.

McPhedran stated that there are many uses that are allowable in a manufacturing setting and manufacturing is one of them. McPhedran also stated that he believed that storage of chemicals or products would be probably an allowable use in a manufacturing.

Schneider assumed their insurance would be higher if they knew what was store in there.

Attorney McPhedran stated the city is not aware of what their insurance may be. McPhedran also mentioned that the city will investigate in regards to the structure itself. He agrees with Alderman Crane in regards to others not knowing until this happened as far as the condition of that building and things.

Bataglia asked if anyone was sorry about not looking into this matter about the truck traffic and the quality of the drivers and that they were carrying this very flammable material.

Dawn Hicks mentioned that Mark Schneider did apologize on video saying he should have looked into it more. Hicks states that is one big thing that the residents are looking for, an acknowledgement and a genuine understanding that this isn't easy on them. They know they

are not receiving this from Carus.

The Mayor stated that the City would not be having these meetings if they didn't care. Mayor Grove mentioned how other communities give the public a minute to speak. The City of LaSalle is not doing that or wants to do that.

Schneider mentioned how the city was praising Carus in their efforts after the incident.

Mayor Grove mentioned how the city did feel that they did a good job the first 24 hours of the fire. He believes a lot of Carus' actions lately have been unacceptable. Mayor does question the timeline of insurance. It has been seven weeks. He is going to reach out to Bart Hartouer to find some more about the industry standard with insurance and see how it is handled with bigger companies.

Schneider mentioned how State Farms is in a tough situation because they want to make sure that they get paid back by Carus. They have to do the right things to test the right way too.

Attorney McPhedran did state that the city will look further into the insurance timeframes. He mentioned that he heard from Rockton that Chemtron did hire a cleanup company to start working on things. He has not heard that Carus has or will do that soon.

Mayor Grove mentioned how their board of directors members are not from LaSalle-Peru. He did state that 90% of the people that work there do live in LaSalle-Peru. He hopes that those workers, as local residents, do not work at a plant that they feel is unsafe for neighborhoods. He does not want to see the families that he does know that work there, work at a place where they think it is unsafe.

Schneider mentioned that he would not be wanting to call out those families, however, for wanting to feed their families and making a decent amount on the job. It is hard to find good work for \$30/hr.

Schneider continued by asking about buying up the wooded area that includes Vermillion River that stretches almost the entire length of our town on the east side. He is curious as to why they bought this wooded area and fenced in the land. He is also wondering why they would go to court to fight to have the land taken off the Superfund site. He had many questions about the land and the clean up of the land, in which they polluted. He questions what the city will do when Carus is forced to move their plant outside of the city limits and then left with the fence and land that will never be habitable. This will prevent the city from ever expanding on the east side of town. Schneider has two reasons that they bought up this land fenced in and fought to get it off the Superfund site. The first reason he spoke of earlier was that they can dump their waste out but they're doing it on their land. The second reason is because if they didn't, they wouldn't be able to hide the fact that they plume chemicals and metals out of their stack at night into city yards and into that land. He states how the EPA allows these chemical companies to expel a small amount of what they refer to as emissions. He states that EPA records, however,

show that they have been in violation of this regulation multiple times. This is a major concern of Schnieder's because the dates of their violations are around the same time that he and Jamie noticed the brownish or beige powder in their yard and in the park next to the plant. He has been trying to find out what the powder form that was in their yards, if it was waste or raw material.

Mayor Grove stated that he had reached out to their people and they did not know from the picture. He stated that no one wants to go on record stating what it is when they do not know for sure.

Gary Hammers asked who "our people" are.

Mayor Grove mentioned that he reached out to their city engineer, Brain Brown, and they have reached out to their internal engineer and at one point they thought it possibly could have been antifreeze.

Schneider mentioned how he was messaging the Mayor trying to figure out what the brownish powder was because it was a major concern of his but then also was concerned about what the possible spill was. When he found out it was potentially antifreeze, he removed his post from facebook.

Schneider mentioned that after the third or fourth email asking about the powder, the Mayor continued to go back to the mention of the antifreeze.

Schneider mentioned how he did find the picture of the brown powder on a manganese or permanganate website. It does not mention what form it's in but he said that it is definitely coming from the stack.

Schneider continued his discussion about a topic that he, Jamie, and Mark have not talked about yet until now because it is "bombshell that's been hidden from the public and they fear for their safety if we talk too much about it." He states that Carus has hired a PR firm to control what the media puts out there to hide what's really going on. He states that The News Tribune reporting doesn't reflect how the meetings really do go. After the News Tribune was called out for their coverage, the next day, he claims that they deceptively went back and changed the original article. Schneider stated that the DEA maintains a list of illicit drugs and also maintains a list of the ingredients that are used to manufacture these drugs. He says that manganese permanganate is on that list and has been a major contributor to manufacturing street drugs.

Mayor Grove stated that he was not too surprised because anymore when you go to the drugstore you have to get many over the counters from the clerk.

Schneider stated that it does surprise him and should surprise a lot. Carus is suppose to be community people, but then one finds out about their product being used to kill.

Mayor Grove mentioned that it is also used to help clean water.

Schneider feels that they would be discussing both ways of use. He states that one should not be hidden from the city and the other be praised all over the place.

Mayor Grove stated that one does have a purpose. He asked Schneider if he was stating on record that Carus is selling to drug dealers.

Schneider said he is not saying that and it is something that's very serious that should not be thrown around.

Alderman Crane asked for Schneider and any others to not keep these things to themselves and at least bring it to Crane's attention.

Mayor Grove stated that it is his own personal opinion but he felt that today information was brought forward that was actually backed up by proof and not hearsay. The city had the facts from Breanne's samples to show two different measurements and two different times. One from the original baseline and a baseline after exposure. They also have the information from the air filters and it has been directed to EPA. He feels that this has all been a positive thing for everybody in this room and the city. Mayor stated how when a company tells you that this is what they are testing for, this is what the city would test for. Mayor stated that one thing that he did learn from this is to "Trust, but Verify."

Mr. Schneider thanked the Mayor for his time.

Katie Trioccoli, from Ottawa, Illinois has been a real estate broker for 39 years and involved in environmental activism since she was 22. When this fire happened and Carus, her alarm bells went off. She has had some personal dealings with Carus, not as Carus Chemical, but as Inga Carus and Peter Limburger, and those dealings haven't always been straightforward. Katie spoke of a lady from the community who adopted a cat from her, because she saves feral kitties. She read:

"Katie, Can you please send me that information that you posted earlier about Carus Chemical? Their explosion, damage assessments, and chemical toxicity poisoning to nearby community. My beautiful and beloved cat Tabitha Jane is dead. I let her out Friday the 20th and she was dead by Saturday the 21st of toxic chemical poisoning. It's not right and she didn't deserve this. Tabitha was only six years old. I rescued and adopted her four and a half years ago, and she's like a baby to me and my best friend. Her loss is tearing my heart apart. And it was so hard and sad and painful and unnecessary. I did everything I could to save her. She died in my arms at Ancare Vet on Saturday at 4:45pm. I owe them \$460 and I spent \$125 on her cremation in Ottawa. I struggled through the whole painful experience alone and in shock and agony. I drove her to the vet in my nightgown and winter boots. She was having seizures. So I held her on one arm and drove with the other. I wrecked the front end of my car in the parking lot by hitting a pole. She is the first thing I think of when I wake up and the last thing before I go to sleep. My grief is too much to bear."

Mayor Grove asked if she had an autopsy done on the cat. Troccoli stated that her friend did not and she assumes she got that information from Ancare.

Mrs. Troccoli continued her discussion in regards to the City of Ottawa changing the zoning from commercial to a special use by calling it warehouse storage. She states that warehouse storage is not chemical storage. They said that they have been deceptive to those of us who are citizens of Ottawa.

Mayor Grove asked Troccoli what falls under warehouse storage. She stated that she will be find out. She believes that a warehouse storage from a trucking company is product that would be similar to tennis shoes and things that are toxic and hazardous. Their warehouse in Ottawa is now within 3 blocks of three grade schools, Central Grade School, Shepherd Junior High and McKinley. She stated that about two weeks to a month prior to that, Ottawa denied lowering zoning to the PADS shelter because that would be a residential use in a commercial zoning. She claims that the Ottawa Planning Commission and the whole City Council voted for it unanimously and kept it very quiet. She stated how she is a candidate for city council and her son is a candidate for mayor. She believes that there is current corruption in Ottawa and she will be uncovering it. She ended her discussion by stating that "We're all human beings, and we all need to be treated with respect and dignity." She does believe that the cat did pass from toxic poisoning.

Mrs. Dawn Hicks did begin by stating that she knew of complaints of liter and McDonald cups on Carus property. She also wanted to bring in a few things that have been outside Carus' property now for a few weeks, and she was thinking they would get removed by now but they haven't. She displayed a hard hat that has been hanging on the fence on Sterling Street. She stated that there were also two fire extinguishers hanging on the fence, one of them on the inside. She did not remove that one. The one she brought in was laying in a puddle right next to the road right in front of Carus. She does have pictures of the locations if there are any questions. She also displayed a fire hose from 1251 Sterling Street since the day of the fire right next to a fire hydrant. She states that there has not been a whole lot of cleanup like Carus claims that it has happened. She would like to see this information put into the paper and rebuttal some of the claims that Carus says how they are all about community.

Fire chief Janick and Alderman Crane confirmed that the hose was from sod watering from the EPA.

Mrs. Hicks asked if the Sierra Club could test these things or point her in the right direction of someone that could test these items. These are things that have been around or close to the Carus property for about a year or less. Hicks states that Carus is not the friendly neighbor business that they keep trying to promote themselves. She believes by having Sierra Club and others speak, the city will start to see them in a different light other than the one that they're trying to perceive for themselves.

Alderman Crane stated that Hicks can leave all the items here and they will dispose of. Hicks mentioned that she will be taking them with her to get tested.

Mrs. Bataglia mentioned that the property by them that is supposed to be polluted and they didn't do the Superfund site, Carus never paid the taxes on that property and that a holding company bought that. She stated that since a holding company bought it and is not owned by Carus, it will be another problem soon since there is not even a holding company around here. She states it is owned by TLI, which is a whole other holding company.

Mayor clarified that Carus Chemical Company is not doing the cleanup. Mayor's understanding is that they were told to put that fence around that to keep people from going into that property.

Bataglia is very upset thinking about the trucks that they were carrying those dangerous chemicals and driving so irrationally down her road and not one person in the city told us that they were carrying hazardous materials.

Mayor stated that at the time the concern that was brought up was about the the truck traffic and the damage to the roads and your yards.

Bataglia wishes that she would have complained more because having known that they were carrying a toxic chemical.

Mayor stated that fortunately that nothing did happen and the city will make sure that doesn't happen there anymore. That was a byproduct of this whole fire and the residents bringing things forward and for the city to learn as they go too.

An audience member asked Mrs. Hicks about the picture that she provided of them cleaning up the purple product. She asked where did that product go because if it was right into the sewer than that is very concerning.

Mrs. Hicks mentioned that she was unsure because she was walking up Todd Street to come around the corner to the south side of the plant. There was a pickup truck that went flying past her and took up way more street than needed. This was from the cleanup today.

Deputy Clerk Bader stated that the EPA was aware of that spill. They claimed at the time when the city called that at that point it would not be harmful after having been treated.

Jamie Hicks asked if there was a number to call for a chemical spill or a rollover.

Bader mentioned, for this case, that he reached out to the EPA and the Department of Health, both state and county. He mentioned that all four organizations were notified of what happened today.

Hicks mentioned that the only way they were exposed was because of some of their cameras.

Bader told Hicks that he misunderstood him earlier. Carus did report to Bader and the EPAs as well. However, Bader took the next step of calling the EPAs and the health departments himself to ensure they were notified.

Hicks stated that he will FOIA that information. Bader stated that they were phone calls.

Bataglia asked if there was a plan for Carus to work together as a community to hold this company accountable for their mistakes and mishandling.

Mayor Grove stated that the spill today was unacceptable. The spill was not from the plant, it was from the ponds that they are cleaning out on their property.

Hicks asked about the picture that he had taken about the two men coming out from the plant when it was raining, they were spraying the product that was going down the sewer.

Hicks had shared this with Crane prior and Crane stated that it was a big eye roll when he saw this picture.

Dawn Hicks stated that she was the one that took the picture. She was nervous at first but is at the point now that she just doesn't care. She wanted to make sure that the city knew there was more than one source that saw these incidents.

One resident asked where that sewer goes and what is that doing to the environment.

Mayor stated that it does go to the water treatment plant.

Dawn Hicks was curious as to what time Carus called the city. Bader was unsure of an exact time. He remembers it to be in the morning. He also believed that they had cleaned it up by that point. Bader said that the City did send Jerry and Patrick over there as soon as we were notified.

Schneider asked when Brownfield will be back to do the additional testing on those six houses.

Bader mentioned that they are in the process of setting that up right now. It's Bader's understanding that Illinois Department of Public Health would like to come along. They are trying to get a schedule that works for everyone. He believes it to be Thursday. Bader stated that they already have the number of homes, along with going back to another one.

Hicks wants to make sure a city employee is with them. He stated that when they came to take four samples from his daughter's house they only ended up with three samples.

Alderman Crane mentioned that they will arrange for an employee to be present.

Hicks is unsure what happened because he spoke with Brian about it and for some reason he

only did three. Hicks remembers it being stated in the meeting that they were going to go according to the EPA tests. The way that they tested them was in four sections, and he only got three.

Bader was unsure the whole history behind that but they are going back for the fourth.

Mrs. Walters asked about the Sierra Club recommendations and if the city has plans to test the water sediment.

Mrs. Marshall stated that she plans on working with her team to understand what their options are. She was reading about potassium permanganate in certain concentrations, it's used to clean water, but she does have concerns about the Little Vermillion. She wants to understand where this chemical is and in what form.

Mayor Grove mentioned the whole situation today was them doing a cleanup by subcontractors at those ponds. They are basically taking that water that is held up in those holding ponds to treat that water. He stated that the majority of that water that the city can tell went on that holding pond on site, and that's that was being treated. It did not reach the Vermillion.

Mrs. Marshall's concern is with the material that fell out, people are rinsing it off, and going into the aquifer.

Mayor Grove was told that the concentration is so diluted at the time that it's not gonna be an issue.

Hicks stated that the city was told this by Carus. Grove mentioned that they were told this by the EPA.

Mrs. Marshall stated that chemical waste storage does fall within a warehouse. How chemicals are stored is very specific. She has concerns about how this company is communicating what is actually in there. She questions if they are burying it and if there is a possibility of contamination to groundwater, with poor storage practices. That is why she is here as the "water person".

One resident is concerned because if it is something to purify water and one has an exuberant amount of it, then it becomes a problem and it is not good for fish.

Mayor stated that in the initial testing they did check the numbers, looked for fishkill, and checked the levels in the Little Vermillion.

She said that if it does go into the oxidation process it is no good for nobody.

Attorney McPhedran stated that the Sierra Club has somebody that has been on this from the beginning, Sonya Lunder. He was unsure if she was quoted properly but it suggested that it shouldn't be an issue in a couple of days.

Hicks stated that it still was a couple of days, two days of it being hazardous.

McPhedran read a bit from the article. "Lunder says that the oxidant will soon be depleted, meaning it will naturally evolve into a non harmful mineral form. Within the next few days. Lunder said it will reach its mineral state and will no longer pose a hazardous threat."

McPhedran stated that the Sierra group has an excellent toxicologist with them from what the credentials suggest and Mrs. Marshall would probably put anyone in contact with her if they were interested. He said the city looks forward to listening to Mrs. Marshall if she has anything in the future to share.

Hicks stated that he heard that the Mayor was done listening to them.

Mrs. Marshall stated that she is going to share some documents. She came across information about New Jersey having a specific hazardous containment for potassium permanganate. It is a fact sheet about what your rights are and how it's stored. She felt that it might be useful to see how other cities and larger cities are dealing with this very specific product. She came across the fact that Carus produces 80% of the potassium permanganate in the United States. She thought it was also a good opportunity to look at what other ways can we clean water that don't result in a need for a hazardous waste containment facility. She stated that everyone does have her information if they ever need anything more.

*End of Public Comment Section